



## Rep. Joyce McDonald Special Session Alert!

### Special session debate: *Taxes or no taxes?*

The 2003 legislative session ended on April 27, but lawmakers must return to Olympia for a special session to complete work on the state's two-year operating budget.

A responsible plan to balance the state budget without tax increases was in place weeks before the session ended. It was an approach supported by Republicans in both the House and Senate, and endorsed by the governor.

But the no-new-tax budget was blocked by Democrat leaders in the House, who fought to the end for tax increases to fund pay raises for public employees. The House Demo-

crats' final budget required \$360 million in tax increases, all to pay for \$460 million in pay raises for public employees.

So on May 12, a special session of the Legislature will convene in Olympia to settle this issue: Will the budget be passed with or without new taxes?

Our state employees are dedicated, hard-working people and I support them. However, in this difficult economy, we all have to tighten our belts. It would not be responsible in this tight budget climate to give raises to those in government who are working, especially when so many people in the private sector have lost their jobs and would have to pay higher taxes to fund these salary increases.

I believe tax increases are unnecessary and will remain committed to adopting a fiscally responsible budget that makes government live within its means, just as you must do at home or work.

*I'd like to hear from you...*

Please send me your comments at:

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#### State budget proposals being considered in Olympia:

Governor's Plan	Senate's Plan	House Republican Plan	House Democrat plan
Requires no new taxes	Requires no new taxes	Requires no new taxes	Requires a \$360 million tax increase

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**SPECIAL SESSION ALERT:**  
Help me stop a \$360 million tax increase!

